Mount Saint Mary's University | Los Angeles

mount

magazine

fall/winter 2016

Shining bright

Record number of graduates in 2016

Undergrad research at the Mount, driven by real-world purpose

The doctor is in: Wellness Movement gains momentum

Celebrate this year's Outstanding Alumnae Awardees

RESEARCH IS MORE THAN A THEORETICAL EXERCISE at Mount Saint Mary's University. For our students, research has a real-world purpose.

Take, for example, a biochemistry major who has made diabetes research central to her undergrad work and to her future medical career. Connie Cardona '17 spent most of her summer in the Joslin Diabetes Center, the world's largest diabetes research center, in Boston, Mass. Her own mother's struggle with diabetes motivates Connie to learn as much as she can about the disease. Her larger goal is to help underserved and underprivileged communities reverse the trend of obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

Another excellent example of research with a purpose comes from a group of students in an Applied Research Methodology class. Associate Professor Jackie Filla worked with the Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women to design a real-life research experience for her undergrads. At the end of the class, the students presented their policy proposals to the commission in L.A.'s City Hall. One of those recommendations is now part of an official city ordinance that could help reduce human trafficking in Los Angeles. We thank city officials such as Mayor Eric Garcetti, First Lady Amy Elaine Wakeland, Councilmember Nury Martinez, and Mayor Garcetti's chief of staff, Ana Guerrero, for being our partners in advocating for the rights of women and girls.

Research will also drive our Wellness Movement, which we will launch this fall. We have appointed Bryant Adibe, MD, assistant professor of physical therapy, to coordinate this ambitious initiative as the University's chief wellness officer. Over the summer, he and a team of students began to study health and wellness on our campuses. Their research, plus the results of a health needs assessment in the fall, will be critical to ensuring that our students become strong, healthy and resilient leaders in their fields and in their communities.

We are excited about all these research opportunities our students are tackling. There is so much passion and dedication evident in their work. They are truly unstoppable!

Sincerely,

Ann McElaney-Johnson

ABOUT US
Mount Saint Mary's is the only women's university in Los Angeles and one of the most diverse in the nation. The University is known nationally for its research on gender equity, its innovative health and science programs, and its commitment to community service. As a leading liberal arts institution, Mount Saint Mary's provides year-round, flexible and online programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Weekend, evening and graduate programs are offered to both women and men. Mount alums are engaged, active, global citizens who use their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their communities and the world. msmu.edu

Mount Saint Mary's University is a diverse community committed to providing an environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of any characteristic protected by federal, state or local law, ordinance or regulation.

PrismPublishing™ of
Mount Saint Mary's University

Mount Saint Mary's University | Los Angeles
mount
magazine

Fall/Winter 2016
Vol. 32, No. 2

EDITOR
Pia Abelgas Orense '15

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Debbie Ream

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Phillip Jordan

CLASS NOTES EDITOR
Barbara (Dummel) Brunner '63

CONTRIBUTORS
Glenn Marzano
Tamara Murga '16
Watchara Phomicinda
Carrie Rosema
Megan Shockro
Karen Sparacio
MSMU Archives

PRINTING
Pace Marketing Communications

© Copyright 2016. Mount Magazine is published by Mount Saint Mary's University, division of Institutional Advancement.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
Mount Magazine
10 Chester Place
Los Angeles, CA 90007.

To contact the editor or submit a story idea, email magazine@msmu.edu; or call 213.477.2504.

Class Notes news should be mailed to Alumnae Relations at 10 Chester Place, Los Angeles, CA 90007 or emailed to alums@msmu.edu. Photo submissions should be 300 dpi.

Mount Saint Mary's University
LOS ANGELES

Alumnae Relations: 213.477.2767
Business Office: 310.954.4040
Chalon Campus: 310.954.4000
Doheny Campus: 213.477.2500
Financial Aid: 310.954.4190
Graduate Admission: 213.477.2800
Institutional Advancement: 213.477.2764
MSMU Online: 800.860.1959
Undergraduate Admission: 310.954.4250
Weekend/Evening College: 213.477.2866

12

Purpose-Driven Research

UNDERGRADS ANALYZE DATA TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

11

Canadian Connection

PROVOST ROBERT PERRINS COMES TO THE MOUNT BY WAY OF NOVA SCOTIA AND SHANGHAI

19

The Case for a Healthy Campus

MEET THE MOUNT'S FIRST CHIEF WELLNESS OFFICER, BRYANT ADIBE, MD

24

Miles and Moments

OUTSTANDING ALUMNAE AWARDEES: FOSTERING THE FUTURE, SAFEGUARDING THE PAST

2 Updates

8 Homecoming

9 Accolades

20 Engage

21 Giving

27 Alum Community

29 Looking Back

Cover

GRADUATION MASS AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH NEAR DOHENY CAMPUS. PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

updates

PHOTO BY GLENN MARZANO

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

HONORING THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF CARONDELET

◀ MOUNT SAINT MARY'S WRAPPED ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY at the annual Commencement ceremony, held May 9 at Los Angeles' historic Shrine Auditorium. During the ceremony, President Ann McElaney-Johnson awarded the Mount's highest honor, the Carondelet Medal, to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the University's founders and shapers of Mount Saint Mary's enduring mission.

The award was presented in recognition of their personal and professional achievements, their contributions to enhancing the lives of students through their dedication and support of Catholic education, and their foresight 90 years ago to lay the groundwork for the University. Sister Carol Brong '66, CSJ, and Sister Constance Fitzgerald, CSJ, received the medal on behalf of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

"The foresight of our founders has laid the groundwork for all of you here today, and we remain dedicated to continuing their legacy, now and into the future," Judith McDonald, trustee, told the Class of 2020.

The CSJs were also honored during Graduation Mass, held the morning of Commencement at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church near the Doheny Campus.

This was the largest graduating class in Mount history, with more than 1,000 earning their degrees from the associate's, bachelor's, Weekend/Evening College and Graduate Division.

PHOTOS BY GLENN MARZANO

▲ **ONLINE EXTRA:** Representing the baccalaureate graduating class, Bathsheba Zewde '16 called on fellow graduates to make a difference: "Let's not let history repeat itself in our generation. Let's make genocide, oppression and racism things of the past … Let's declare 'not in my generation.'" Watch her speech at msmu.edu/magazine.

PHOTO BY GLENN MARZANO

Mary Melton, editor in chief of Los Angeles Magazine; Musimbi Kanyoro, president & CEO of the Global Fund for Women; Ann McElaney-Johnson, president of Mount Saint Mary's; Maria Echaveste, senior fellow at the UC Berkeley Center for Latin American Studies; and Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, executive director of the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls at the release of the Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT ON WOMEN

▲ THE FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CALIFORNIA™ is available online at msmu.edu/statusofwomen. It is designed to enlighten the public and to guide leaders in developing and implementing solutions to the barriers that prevent women — who represent half of the state's population — from playing a full role in the future of California.

The report, produced by a team of Mount professors, found continuing challenges for women, particularly in political representation and in the entertainment industry, as well as notable progress in high school graduation rates, state university preparedness and business ownership.

The findings were released at a free public forum held March 30 at L.A.'s Skirball Cultural Center.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti spoke at the gathering and discussed L.A.'s own gender equity efforts. "For the first time in Los Angeles history, over 50 percent of the city's more than 300 commissioners are women and there is not a single commission that is all men in the city of Los Angeles," he said.

All of the city's gender-equity efforts, he noted, are based on a five-part study on L.A.'s women and girls, conducted last year by Mount Saint Mary's for the Los Angeles City Commission on the Status of Women.

FIGHTING AGAINST MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

▼ THE UNIVERSITY HAS LONG BEEN HONORED to stand with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) in the fight to end modern-day slavery. On May 10, CAST recognized the contributions of Mount Saint Mary's students, alums, faculty and staff with a Founders Award, in tandem with the University's own founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

The honors were awarded at CAST's annual From Slavery to Freedom Gala, which took place at the Skirball Cultural Center.

Sister Catherine Marie Kreta, CSJ, was the featured honoree from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She is a former University trustee and board chair who was instrumental in the creation of CAST.

Sister Catherine Marie Kreta, CSJ; Sister Joan Mary O'Dwyer, CSJ; L.A. City Councilmember Nury Martinez and Mount Saint Mary's President Ann McElaney-Johnson, along with L.A. County Task Force partners at CAST's annual gala.

MORE THAN $2 MILLION IN GRANTS

MOUNT SAINT MARY'S RECEIVED A $1.94 MILLION GRANT from the Health Resources and Services Administration through its Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students initiative. The highly competitive, four-year grant will provide financial support to students in the University's traditional bachelor of science in nursing program.

The University also received two grants, totaling more than $500,000, to support new wellness programming on campus. The UniHealth Foundation's grant will support a specialized track dedicated to addressing the wellness needs of health sciences majors, including nursing students, so that they have the tools and resources they need to be resilient healthcare providers. The Joseph Drown Foundation award will fund activities and support for all other majors, ensuring that all students have access to this important program, regardless of their field of study.

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

INSPIRING WOMEN TO RUN FOR OFFICE

▲ EVEN AS THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN offers a historic milestone for women, California government at nearly all levels remains one of the most gender imbalanced in the country. On April 9, Mount Saint Mary's hosted a nonpartisan Ready to Run™ campaign-training program specifically for women, aiming to help correct that inequity. The intensive program was designed to encourage women to run for elective office and help prepare and position them for appointive office, to work on campaigns or to become active in public life.

"Every woman has leadership capacity and has issues that she's passionate about," said California State Senator Holly Mitchell *(left in above photo)*, "and the benefit of an event like this is understanding the mechanics of getting elected and hearing practical advice from women who have done it successfully."

Ready to Run featured more than 15 speakers, including elected officials, from across California, as well as political strategists and campaign veterans. The event attracted more than 150 political aspirants, including women who will soon be seeking elective office as well as college students still laying the groundwork for a path to public service.

ROY ADAPTATION MODEL, 50 YEARS LATER

▲ FIFTY YEARS AGO, alumna Sister Callista Roy, CSJ, '63 developed a transformational nursing model that ensures patients are treated as complex human beings with ever-changing biological, psychological, social and spiritual needs. Ever since, the Roy Adaptation Model has provided a high-level framework for nursing practice, education and research across the globe.

"The Roy Model is more than just a model. It's a way of thinking, it's a way of believing, it's a way of acting," says Marsha Sato '77, director of Mount Saint Mary's master of science in nursing program. "Her model is the foundation of our curriculum."

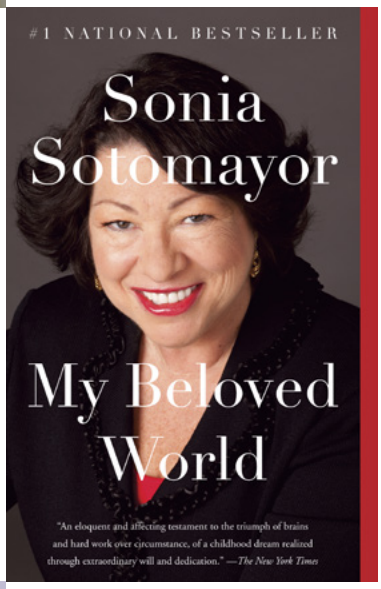
Sister Callista still works as a teacher, researcher and writer. She is currently a professor and nurse theorist at Boston College's William F. Connell School of Nursing. The school hosted a celebration in her honor on June 10 that joined together healthcare professionals from the National Institutes of Health with colleagues from across the United States, Columbia, Japan, Mexico and Panama.

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

DIVERSITY DIALOGUES

▲ IMMIGRATION AND RACIAL ISSUES ARE HOT TOPICS on the campaign trail this year and both were the focus of public forums hosted by the Mount's Diversity Task Force in the spring. In April, a panel of faculty, students and community members discussed issues surrounding immigration and how it may influence the presidential election. Panelists included Marcos McPeek Villatoro, professor and Fletcher Jones Chair of Writing; Diana Ramos '20 *(above)*, student and representative of the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles; Dahlia Maldonado '16; Angel Acosta, participant in President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program; and Jaice Mendoza-Macias, beneficiary of a U-Visa. Each panelist shared their personal story and discussed how their families were directly affected by immigration.

In March, author and historian Lawrence Ross discussed race and identity specific to higher education. His talk traced recent high-profile cases of racial injustice on American campuses to their historic origins — and explored why many issues from the past are still with us today. The point: The more you can understand the roots and history of what's going on, the easier it is to take action and affect change.


#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER
Sonia Sotomayor
My Beloved World
"An eloquent and affecting testament to the triumph of brains and hard work over circumstance, of a childhood dream realized through extraordinary will and dedication." —The New York Times

WINNING 'UNSTOPPABLE' CAMPAIGN

▲ MOUNT SAINT MARY'S RECEIVED TWO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VII. In the category Marketing: Branding Programs, the Mount's "Unstoppable" campaign tied for silver with two Cal State universities. In the category Writing: Periodical Staff Writing, the judges awarded the bronze medal to Mount Magazine. Other schools who won in this category were Brigham Young University and USC.

ON SAME PAGE

▲ THIS FALL, the entire Mount community has been invited to read Sonia Sotomayor's memoir, "My Beloved World." Sotomayor is the first Latina and third woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her book was adopted as the "common read" for students in the First-Year Seminar course, which was recently redesigned by faculty and is a required class for first-year students.

The book will be part of campus-wide discourse, as faculty, staff and alums are joining in. Discussions and events related to the book will be hosted by different groups throughout the semester.

HIGHER ED STRATEGIES

President Ann McElaney-Johnson joined four other university presidents in a discussion on long-term strategic planning in a disruptive higher education environment. The event, hosted by the California Higher Education Innovation Council, was held in the Doheny Mansion on June 21. The other participating institutions were University of Redlands; East Los Angeles College; California State University, San Bernardino; and Grand Canyon University.

WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

▲ THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES Commission on the Status of Women now includes a representative from L.A.'s only women's university.

Jackie Filla, PhD, associate professor of political science, was sworn in as the city's newest commissioner this summer. Filla's passion for getting women involved in public service is evident beyond the classroom. She directs Mount Saint Mary's annual Ready to Run™ campaign-training program for women.

In 2015, Mount Saint Mary's partnered with the commission and the Mayor's Office to create a first-ever study of the status of women and girls in the city of Los Angeles, with Filla contributing to the report. In response to the findings, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti created a coalition to promote gender equity across L.A. Now, Filla will help the commission collect data that all city departments can use to craft specific gender-equity plans for their areas. Results will be shared with the public.

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

▲ WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS is perhaps an unlikely way for college students to consider spending Spring Break. But for 12 Mount Saint Mary's students, the week off provided the unique opportunity to support four nonprofits that are addressing one of Los Angeles' most pressing issues.

Over the course of five days in March, the 12 students participating in the Mount's Alternative Spring Break program prepared and served breakfast to 70 residents living at the PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) housing facility in Hollywood. Then, they organized a food pantry at St. Francis Center, located near the Doheny Campus. Next, the students staffed Homeless Health Care's downtown Los Angeles syringe exchange program. Donning hard hats and work belts, they later joined a Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles work crew in nearby Inglewood. Finally, the program was capped by a tour of Skid Row and a roundtable session with Alisa Orduna, homeless policy analyst for L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

BLUMENTHAL TO LEAD BOARD OF TRUSTEES

◀ THOMAS J. BLUMENTHAL, president and CEO of GEARYS Beverly Hills, is now the chair of Mount Saint Mary's board of trustees. Before joining the board, Blumenthal first served the Mount as a regent from 2002 to 2005. He is a former president of the Rodeo Drive Committee, as well as former president of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce and former vice president of the Maple Counseling Center.

The Mount also welcomes four new trustees: Janet Feeley, a marriage and family therapist; Zulema Garcia '95, a partner in the Professional Practice Group of financial firm KPMG; Kathleen A. Garvey '69, co-founder of Crestwood Communities; and Dr. J. Mario Molina, president and CEO of Molina Healthcare.

The Regents Council welcomes three new members this year: Nancy Valdivia Antoniou '06, and adjunct business instructors James Roach and Dennis Signorovitch.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE WELLNESS

As part of the Mount's Wellness Movement, this year's Homecoming will focus on health of mind, body and spirit.

HOMECOMING 2016

SATURDAY, OCT. 15
CHALON CAMPUS

START THE DAY ON THE RIGHT FOOT. Join your fellow alums on an optional morning hike along the fire trail, from the top of the campus to the top of the mountain.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Nature hike (optional)
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Founders Day Mass
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Luncheon
2:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Workshops
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Reception

HIGHLIGHTS

Reunions: Classes of '61, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06 and '11
Golden Grad Class of 1966 celebration*
Outstanding Alumnae Awards

** Golden Grads receive complimentary admission*

WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

ASKING FOR THE GRACE TO CREATE ANEW: THE ENERGY OF THE SIX WOMEN OF LE PUY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
A mini spiritual retreat given by Sr. Darlene Kawulok, CSJ, chair of the Religious Studies department, and Shannon Green, director of the CSJ Institute. This will be a time for reflection and renewal.

USING HEALTH ASSESSMENTS TO IMPROVE AND SUSTAIN WELLNESS
Presented by Debbie Lowe, chair and director of the Physical Therapy department, and physical therapy staff. This interactive workshop will cover balance, posture, breathing, stretching and relaxation meditation including mantra and modra.

"LOOK WHAT'S COOKING – AN IN-BALANCE MEAL!"
Presented by Chef Gerardo Palma, general manager of Bon Appétit.

RESILIENCE: WHAT IT IS AND HOW DO WE BUILD IT?
Presented by Susan Salem, PhD, director of counseling and psychological services.

MEET MOUNT SAINT MARY'S NEW CHIEF WELLNESS OFFICER – BRYANT ADIBE, MD
Find out about the future of wellness at Mount Saint Mary's University from the person who will guide it.

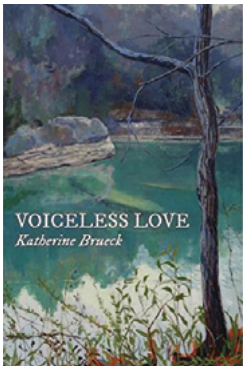
JADE WOMAN QI GONG
Presented by Helena Zhang of Golden Seed Golden Tree. Discover a beautiful and flowing form of movement therapy.

Following the workshops, our celebration concludes in The Circle for a wine & hors d'oeuvres reception with a photo booth, music and more.

TO REGISTER FOR HOMECOMING, CALL 213.477.2767 OR GO TO ALUMS.MSMU.EDU/HOMECOMING2016

accolades

FACULTY



◄**Katherine Brueck**, PhD, chair of the English department, gave readings of her new poetry collection, "Voiceless Love," on both campuses during the spring semester. The poems appeal to fierce romantics as well as to Christian existentialists. The collection is now available at amazon.com and at finishinglinepress.com.

Madeleine Bruning '76, EdD, associate professor of nursing, co-organized "The Forgotten Wounds of War," an interdisciplinary, international colloquium on healing the wounds of moral injury, with USC assistant professor Carl Castro, PhD. The event was held in June in Missilac, France.

David Burkitt, PhD, assistant professor of business administration, presented "The Transformational Heart in Executive Leadership" at the International Academy of Business and Public Administration Disciplines Conference, which was held in April in Dallas, Texas.

◄**Charles Bunce**, assistant professor of film, media and communication, taught "Introduction to Film Studies" at Richmond, the American International University in London, for the inaugural faculty exchange held this summer. An associate professor from Richmond, John Chua, came to Los Angeles to teach "Documentary Filmmaking" to Weekend/Evening College students.

▲ **PEER LEADERS:** A round of applause for the Mount's Student Success Center peer mentors who facilitated a workshop at the Rocky Mountains Peer Leadership Conference in Denver, Colo. Students presented "Integrating Peer Mentoring with the Case Management Model to Increase Student Success" and spoke about the importance of providing targeted support to first-generation college students. Pictured here: **Robin Bishop**, PhD, assistant professor of psychology; **Rebekah Morgan '17** (business); **Angelica Frias '18** (pre-health nursing); **Amanda Gutierrez '18** (psychology); **Shayla McDowell '17** (sociology); **Leslie Robles**, MS, counselor, Student Success Center; and **Evelyn Kowalski**, MS, director, Student Success Center.

Leah Fitzgerald, PhD, Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair for Nursing Partnerships in the Community, has been named dean of nursing. She is board certified as a family nurse practitioner and has more than 20 years of clinical research experience.

Robin Gordon, PhD, director of secondary education, presented a paper at the joint meeting of the British Society for the History of Science, the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, and the History of Science Society (United States) in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in June. Her paper, "The Archetype of the Whore: The Challenge for Women in Science," focused on transitions for women in science.

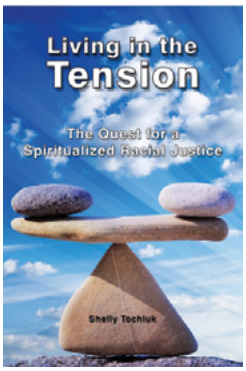
Paul Green, PhD, professor of philosophy and faculty undergraduate research coordinator, received a 2016 Lenssen Prize honorable mention for his paper "How to Motivate Students: A Primer for Learner-Centered Teachers," which had been published in the American Association of Philosophy Teachers Studies in Pedagogy.

Sr. Darlene Kawulok, CSJ, DMin., chair of Religious Studies, is the first CSJ Institute research grant recipient. Her project will engage an undergraduate research assistant in archival research of the Mount's 90-year history to uncover the untold stories and achievements of many of our sisters. Results of the project will be on display at the academic symposium in the spring semester.

Sasha Rarang '06, PhD, adjunct faculty in the ABSN program, presented a poster session at the QSEN (Quality and Safety Education for Nurses) Conference in San Antonio, Texas, in May entitled "Measuring Beginning Nursing Students' Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes toward Patient Safety: A Study of the Effects of Scenario Based High-Fidelity Simulation."

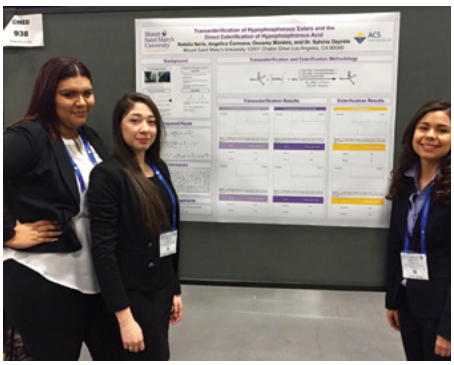
Kelby Thwaits, assistant professor in the film, media and communication department, was named director of the MFA in Film and Television program.

Ana Thorne '06, '08 MA, PhD, professor of creative writing, presented a paper, "Ana Blaxicana, Anita Negrita," as part of the Identities and Intersectionalities panel of the fifth annual Doing Autoethnography Conference, held in March at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

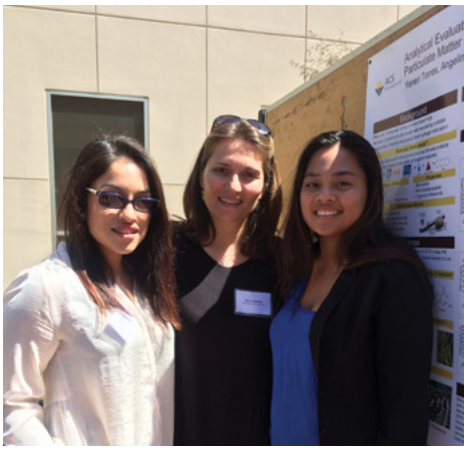


◄ **Shelly Tochluk**, PhD, chair of the education department, celebrated the release of her latest book, "Living in the Tension: The Quest for a Spiritualized Racial Justice," at a gathering on the Doheny Campus in May. She also co-authored an article, "White Teacher, Know Thyself: Improving Anti-Racist Praxis Through Racial Identity Development," that was published in the May edition of the journal Urban Education.

STUDENTS



▲ Athenians (including some of our Southern California Edison scholars) presented their STEM research projects at the American Chemical Society's National Meeting & Exposition held in March in San Diego. This year's research theme was "Computers in Chemistry." Among the students who presented their undergraduate research were biochemistry majors, *in photo from left*, **Desarey Morales '18**, **Natalia Neris '18** and **Angie Carmona '17**.



▲ Several STEM students gave presentations at the Southern California Undergraduate Research Conference, sponsored by the American Chemical Society, in April in Long Beach. Among the Mount students were, *in photo*, biochemistry majors **Yeneri Torres '16** and **Angelina Camille Bautista '16** with their mentor, associate professor **Sylvine Deprele, PhD**.

▲ **Christopher Kahle**, director of experiential learning, Diane Vines, associate professor, and nursing students **Suzane Kim '16** and **Lance Capisanan '17** presented in May a poster of research findings on the Community Action Poverty Simulation at the 2016 Symposium between Academia and Practice: Preparing the Future of Public Health Nursing Workforce, which was held in May in Los Angeles.

Weekend/Evening College alum **B.K. Cannon '16** landed a guest role in the popular Fox TV series "Bones." The "Switched at Birth" actor played the Jeffersonian team's short-lived intern, Sammy Mills.

▲ **Melanie Sava '17**, *right*, was ranked the top oral advocate during the California Moot Court Classic competition held on the Chalon Campus in May. She and her partner, **Karla Ballesteros '16,** *left*, made it to the semifinal round of the overall competition.

STAFF

◄ **Sandy Chavez**, STEM Center advisor, along with UCLA professor Imelda Nava, presented "Minority Women in STEM Fields — Increasing Capacity by Developing STEM Identity" at the American Educational Research Association in Washington, D.C., in April. The study explores challenges and assets of first-generation minority women in STEM majors.

PHOTO BY CARRIE ROSEMA

MEET THE PROVOST

Canadian connection

AS ROBERT PERRINS SEES IT, his path to Los Angeles — and his new position as Mount Saint Mary's provost — began in a college billiards room. It was 1986, Perrins' second year at Canada's McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. The former engineering student had switched his major to history and he had also secured a dream day job: working in the on-campus billiards room.

"My strategy at the time was to maximize the hours I could spend playing pool," Perrins says with a laugh. "So, I decided to take as many evening courses as possible. It just so happened that there were many courses offered at night related to Asian studies."

His timing was fortuitous. China was opening up to the West in the 1980s; Perrins graduated the same year as the student-led protests in Tiananmen Square. The "engineering refugee" went on to earn a master's degree and PhD in history at Toronto's York University, specializing in modern Chinese history. In 1995, he began teaching at Acadia University in rural Nova Scotia, on Canada's east coast — and stayed there 21 years. At Acadia, he established the Northeast Asia Research Center, enabling undergraduate students to research the modern history and politics of China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong.

Perrins was in Shanghai, in fact, when he heard about a provost position available at a place called Mount Saint Mary's University. As he learned about the Mount, one fact hit home: that half of the University's students are first in their families to attend college. Perrins is a first-generation college student. His parents immigrated from England to Canada, and he understands firsthand the transformative potential of a college degree.

"I might be a guy from Canada, but I can identify with what a lot of students here probably feel," he says. "The excitement, the expectations, the hope of your family. Coming to the Mount is an opportunity for me to come full circle."

Perrins has worn many hats in his academic career. He has served as dean of the faculty of Arts, as dean of Research and Graduate Studies, as a university librarian and, most recently, as academic vice president at Acadia University. Now, Perrins looks forward to supporting the Mount's professors as provost.

"There is nothing better than teaching. Interacting with students and sparking their imaginations is what this is all about."

To learn more about the Mount's new provost, read our extended profile at msmu.edu/magazine.

RESEARCH WITH PURPOSE

There is nothing theoretical about the real-world effects of undergraduate research at Mount Saint Mary's

Dissecting diabetes

Every summer, the Mount's STEM students scatter to different research sites across the country for internships. One biochemistry major spent 10 weeks at the largest diabetes research center in the world.

By Pia Orense '15

Connie Cardona '17 holed up in a research lab near Harvard University, studying the cells of women with varying body mass index. She analyzed gene patterns and checked for the presence of adipocytes, the cells that store fat.

Cardona was one of 18 students from the West Coast to receive a highly competitive grant from the National Institutes of Health to participate in the STEP-UP summer program of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. She conducted her research at the Joslin Diabetes Center, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, in Boston, Mass., and the largest diabetes research center in the world. Her data will become part of a larger study on how metabolic pathways are altered when infants are exposed to obesity or diabetes during the nine-month gestation period.

"I always saw Harvard as what seemed like an impossible dream to accomplish, so when I was accepted for the STEP-UP program, I jumped at the opportunity to come to Boston," she says.

Boston, and what it represents for Cardona, is a long way — geographically and culturally — from the

Connie Cardona '17 with her mentor, Dr. Elvira Isganaitis, at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, Mass. During her 10-week summer internship at Joslin, Cardona co-authored an article with Isganaitis that will be published in September.

PHOTO BY KAREN SPARACIO

‘This experience has taught me more than I could have imagined ... It taught me that I have what it takes to conduct research in the diabetic field and make a difference.’

Connie Cardona ’17, biochemistry major

South Los Angeles neighborhood she grew up in, where survival was emphasized over success. Instead of filling out college applications during her last two years in high school, Cardona worked 12 hours every weekend selling merchandise at a swap meet to help her family. Her boss told her not to bother with college. He pointed out that her family wouldn’t be able to afford it anyway.

But she was determined to get a college degree. She knew education was her pathway to success.

Now, Cardona is a first-generation college student who is one year away from her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and two years away from medical school.

“Connie is a go-getter,” says Luiza Nogaj, PhD, associate professor of biological sciences and Cardona’s mentor at the Mount. “This internship is as good as it gets.”

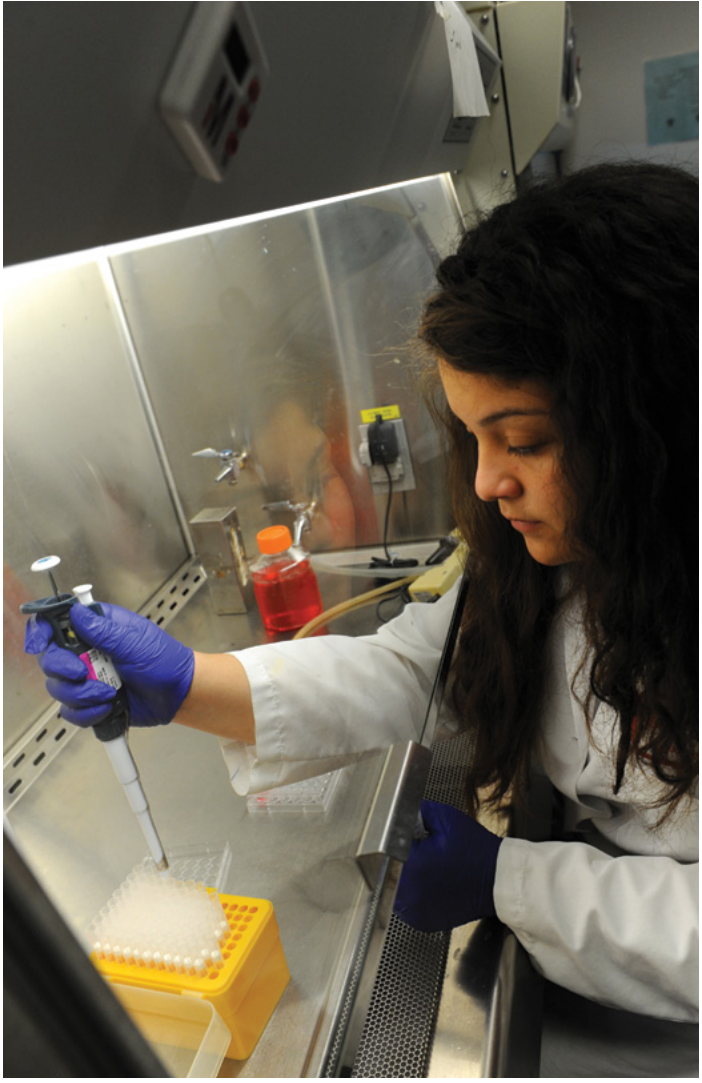
Her mentor at Joslin, Dr. Elvira Isganaitis, said Cardona absorbed the experience like a sponge. “She has a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and curiosity. She interacted with scientists and physicians with a range of different research interests, and asked great questions,” says Isganaitis, assistant investigator and staff pediatric endocrinologist at Joslin and an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School.

Cardona’s research will help the center develop specific intervention programs for pregnant women at risk for gestational diabetes.

During her internship, Cardona also helped Isganaitis write a review article on how fathers can affect their babies’ health. The article will be published in the Sept. 9 issue of the “Current Opinion in Endocrinology and Diabetes” journal.

“I learned so much from being around professionals who never failed to impress me with how passionate they are about their field,” says Cardona. “I’ve learned that their passion is what allows them to know so much about their research.”

While Cardona chose to do her STEP-UP internship at Joslin because of its proximity to Harvard, she chose diabetes research because it hits close to home. Cardona grew up in a section of Los Angeles that grapples with increasing rates of obesity and Type 2 diabetes. Her own mother developed diabetes, and Cardona had to help her inject insulin.



Biochemistry major Connie Cardona ’17 runs an experiment at the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, Mass. Her summer research will help the center develop specific intervention programs for pregnant women at risk for gestational diabetes.

She has made the disease her research focus at the Mount. In Nogaj’s lab, Cardona studies the effects of tea extracts on preventing the death of beta cells, which are important in maintaining normal glucose levels. She runs her experiments under the guidance of Nogaj and another professor, Sylvine Deprele, and she collaborates with fellow biochemistry major Stephanie Jimenez ’17.

When Cardona is not in the classroom or in the lab or helping other students as a Title III STEM Grant mentor, she volunteers at Huntington Park Family Health Center, where she helps coordinate health fairs offering free glucose and blood pressure screenings to the community.

Interning at the Joslin Diabetes Center was the perfect intersection of Cardona’s personal interests, her community work and her passion for scientific research.

“This experience has taught me more than I could have imagined,” she says. “More importantly, it taught me that I have what it takes to conduct research in the diabetic field and make a difference.”

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti meets with Mount students about their research and policy recommendations.

PHOTO BY GLENN MARZANO

Creating public policy

Students in a research methodology course sent policy analyses and recommendations to a city commission. One of their proposals is now an official Los Angeles ordinance addressing human trafficking in the city.

PHOTO BY STEVEN GEORGES

Riki Esquer '16, Rachel Yeo '16, and Sydnei Jones '17 make the case for their research on human trafficking in Los Angeles.

By Phillip Jordan

WHEN RIKI ESQUER '16, SYDNEI JONES '17 AND RACHEL YEO '16 DELIVERED their final presentations in an Applied Research Methodology course this past spring, they did not do so in a classroom. Instead, they delivered their presentations in L.A.'s City Hall before the Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women. And there was more at stake than a grade; Esquer, Jones and Yeo were arguing for a new public policy that could help reduce human trafficking across Los Angeles.

Today, their policy recommendation is part of an official Los Angeles ordinance that tasks members of the City's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development to educate L.A. youth on how to spot and report cases of human trafficking they see in their communities. The youth who receive the training — some of whom were once involved in local gangs — work on a Mayor's Office

After their presentation to the Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women, students in the Applied Research Methodology class taught by Associate Professor Jackie Filla, center, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the mayor's office.

initiative called Summer Night Lights aimed at improving public safety in at-risk neighborhoods and reducing the number of L.A. youth involved in gangs.

"It feels surreal to know that the work we did has the opportunity to make a real difference in our communities," Esquer says. "I did not think something like this would be possible at age 22."

Jackie Filla, PhD, associate professor of political science at Mount Saint Mary's, developed the methodology for the course. She then worked with the L.A. Commission on the Status of Women to design a real-life research experience for her undergraduate students — one that would also yield data and policy proposals that the commission could use in its advocacy on behalf of L.A.'s women and girls.

A class of 10 students, working in teams with policy analyst Helen Rigg in the Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation, conducted original research to craft three distinct policy recommendations they then pitched to the commission. Students met with city department heads, reviewed their data with commission members and even discussed their proposals with Mayor Eric Garcetti.

"This was a chance for our students to do research with a real purpose," Filla says. "And one of their ideas [on human trafficking] is already helping some of the most vulnerable women and girls in our city. They've helped create an ordinance that's going to have a positive impact on the lives of people in the second-largest city in the nation. What other undergraduate students can say that?"

> "The young women who took part in this class turned their knowledge into action, and made a lasting impact on the City of L.A."
>
> *Jessica Postigo, president of the L.A. Commission on the Status of Women*

PHOTO BY STEVEN GEORGES

Melanie Sava '17 appreciates how rare this opportunity was. Her research team worked on a policy proposal to create a customized mentoring program that would match up new and established female small-business owners in L.A.

In the course of their research, the team interviewed everyone from women business owners and Chamber of Commerce officials to representatives from Sheryl Sandberg's Lean In foundation and algorithm technology experts at eHarmony.

"This was one of those Mount experiences that you just don't get anywhere else," Sava says. "This was not a simulation. This was real-world work that could potentially affect real lives. That's not something you often get to do as an undergrad. And it's definitely not something you can replicate in the classroom."

Other students discovered a calling to public policy through the course. Phylizia Carrillo '17, for instance, worked on the research team that explored more effective ways to support women re-entering society from the prison system — especially women with children. The experience confirmed her desire to run for office one day. Already, Carrillo has interned with the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation and gotten involved with nonprofits and youth movements focused on issues both in Los Angeles and in the Philippines. This fall, she will intern with U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu.

"I credit this class with instilling in me the ability and tenacity to seek out these kinds of internships and leadership positions," Carrillo says, "and to pursue a life in public service."

Filla credits the commission for entrusting graduate-level work to the Mount's undergraduate students.

"It was an honor to collaborate with Dr. Filla to develop an innovative teaching model that fostered hands-on learning experiences for our future policy-makers," says Jessica Postigo, president of the L.A. Commission on the Status of Women. "The young women who took part in this class turned their knowledge into action, and made a lasting impact on the city of L.A."

PHOTO BY MUSEUM ASSOCIATES/LACMA

Looking is not seeing

Program uses art to hone nursing students' observation skills

By Phillip Jordan

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE PAINTING ABOVE? An affluent family gathering? A religious ceremony? When Sarah Shealy, assistant professor of nursing, looks at the 1892 piece — titled, helpfully, "The Baptism" — she sees a unique opportunity for Mount Saint Mary's nursing students to become more observant healthcare professionals.

The oil on canvas is one of several paintings that nursing students studied closely during a spring semester visit to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The outing was part of an ongoing "Looking is Not Seeing" partnership between the University and LACMA's education and public programs department, which brings nursing students to the art institution to sharpen their observation skills.

"Those skills are important because as medical professionals we don't want to jump to conclusions based on a first glance," Shealy says. "If we stop observing, we stop gathering information that might be vital to a person's wellbeing."

The idea is to get students out of the classroom or the hospital, and challenge them to describe — objectively — what they see in a painting. No assumptions allowed. After five minutes of silent viewing, students make a visual inventory of what they can determine from observation alone. Only after that can they begin interpreting what might really be going on in the scene; students are often surprised to see how widely their interpretations vary.

"This is a powerful experience that shows how we all walk into a room with our own set of pre-conceived notions," Shealy says. "Our brains want to get to an answer quickly, but healthcare is often more about questions than answers."

"Looking is Not Seeing" was developed by the Yale School of Nursing and the Yale Center for British Art. An "Innovations in Accelerated Nursing Education" grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation enabled Mount Saint Mary's to bring the program west. Shealy and art instructor Nina Berson collaborated with Yale faculty to establish a version of the program at the Mount.

WELLNESS MOVEMENT

Healthy campus, healthy living

New Chief Wellness Officer propels wellness movement into high gear

MOUNT SAINT MARY'S WELLNESS MOVEMENT is gaining momentum, starting with the naming of a Chief Wellness Officer.

Bryant Adibe, MD, an assistant professor of physical therapy and health policy management at Mount Saint Mary's, is now the leader of this ambitious wellness movement. In July, he was appointed as the University's first-ever Chief Wellness Officer.

Adibe received his medical doctorate from the University of Florida, and completed clinical clerkships in emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School's Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Stanford University Medical Center. Adibe also completed graduate coursework in evidence-based healthcare and research methodology at Oxford University (U.K.).

> 'Our goal is to create a robust, positive culture of health and wellness across the entire Mount Saint Mary's community.'
>
> *President Ann McElaney-Johnson*

Prior to joining the Mount, he served as a Fellow in Medical Education within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In his new role, Adibe will coordinate a Wellness Task Force made up of more than 20 faculty, staff and student representatives. He will also share about the University's wellness initiatives and innovations through public lectures and essays in media outlets.

"We believe the wellness movement at Mount Saint Mary's will have a transformational impact on the health, confidence and resilience of our students," Adibe says. "I envision a wellness movement that welcomes and embraces our diversity. One that meets individuals wherever they are and encourages them to where they can be."

For now, Adibe is focused on conducting the needs assessment that will be essential for the Mount's wellness movement to make a long-term impact. A team of University experts will assist him in the assessment, including Stephen Inrig, PhD, director of health policy and management; Heather Brown, PhD, assistant vice president of institutional planning and research; Leah Fitzgerald, PhD, dean of nursing; and Autumn Johnson, director of sports and wellness.

"Our goal is to create a robust, positive culture of health and wellness across the entire Mount Saint Mary's community," President Ann McElaney-Johnson says. "We're building that culture with input from all areas of the University, so that what we offer addresses the most pressing needs of our students, faculty and alums."

PHOTO BY VATCHARA PHOMICINDA

RECENT PROGRESS ON WELLNESS INITATIVES

Two exciting developments in the wellness movement:

- The planning and review process moves forward for the construction of a state-of-the-art Wellness Pavilion at the University's Chalon Campus.
- A comprehensive, needs-based strategy is taking shape that will determine the resources, experts and programs necessary for the University to become a model for healthy, vigorous living.

engage

GET INVOLVED AT THE MOUNT

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK. We invite you to join us. Mount Saint Mary's University supporters are recognized in the annual President's Report, receive the Mount Magazine and attend special events throughout the year. Most importantly, Mount supporters are able to make a difference in the lives of current students. How? Let us count the ways…

VOLUNTEER
Do you have a little extra time and a lot of affection for the Mount? Become a volunteer. We can always use an extra hand!

THE MOUNT FUND
Annual contributions from alums, parents and friends support the University's greatest needs. The Mount Fund provides critical support for students and faculty. Every gift counts!

WELLNESS MOVEMENT
A wellness movement is under way at the Mount to help our students become strong and healthy leaders. One way we hope to accomplish that is by building a Wellness Pavilion at Chalon that will house new health, fitness and sports programs. Help our community be a mighty force in the world: msmu.edu/wellness.

MOUNT ASSOCIATES
Mount Associates provide critical funding for tuition assistance and academic programs with annual contributions of $1,000 or greater. Mount Associates enjoy special fellowship at unique events designed to foster cultural and social enrichment.

HERITAGE SOCIETY
The Heritage Society, established in 1992, is comprised of alums, friends and faculty who have made plans to provide future support for the University. Notify us now of a planned gift and enjoy the benefits of joining the Heritage Society.

JOIN IN
For more information — or to explore other ways to engage at the Mount — please contact Megan Shockro, senior director of development, at mshockro@msmu.edu or 213.477.2875. Or visit msmu.edu/support.

PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO SERVE: Volunteers at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in April.

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON: Scholarship recipients at the annual event that allows students to meet and personally thank their generous supporters.

MOUNT ASSOCIATES: Deborah and Patrick Greene at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles.

PHOTO BY GLENN MARZANO

PROFILES OF PHILANTHROPY

Katherine and Jeff Whitman

There is an ancient Chinese verse, "Good friends from afar bring distant lands near." This verse captures the spirit of international community created when our students participate in global studies at Mount Saint Mary's.

Throughout their marriage, Katherine and Jeff Whitman have traveled extensively around the globe. They know the value of meeting and exchanging ideas with those they encounter. They are committed to introducing Mount students to similar opportunities.

While a student at Mount Saint Mary's, Katherine was encouraged by Mount professors to take a junior year abroad studying in Vienna, Austria. The opportunity was a life-changing experience for her, as it would inform her education, become the foundation for her expertise and lead to many more academic adventures overseas. Jeff had a similar experience in high school as an exchange student to Mexico. That year he formed a bond with his host family, a relationship that continues to this day.

Katherine is an associate professor of economics and international business, currently in her third decade on the Mount faculty. During her career at the Mount, she has organized and led over 40 study trips to 25 countries across Europe, Asia and South America for undergraduate, Weekend/Evening College and MBA students, plus faculty. Jeff has assisted Katherine on several of these trips. Katherine's extensive efforts have created transformative global experiences for Mount students.

Katherine is especially proud of helping forge student and faculty exchange programs with Gannan University in Ganzhou, China, and Guangdong Women's Polytechnic College in Guangzhou, China.

Katherine is president of the Los Angeles Guangzhou Sister City Association and was a member of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti's delegation to China. Her long history of forging strong relationships led to her being named an Honorable Citizen of the City of Guangzhou.

In 2015, Katherine and Jeff established the Whitman Fund for Global Studies. Their generous endowed contribution will support generations of Mount students in perpetuity. The Whitmans' contribution will be matched by Stephen Page, a Mount trustee, who established The Judy Kelly Page Global Fund Challenge grant supporting global initiatives at the University.

PROFILE OF PHILANTHROPY

Angela (Patin) Stern ’81, ’13 MBA

ANGELA (PATIN) STERN ’81, ’13 MBA WAS RAISED in Los Angeles’ Watts community, in a home hand-built by her father and grandfather. She can recall, as a very young child, growing up during the Watts riots. She worked hard and strived for excellence in school, following the examples set by her beloved parents, Janet and Fernand Patin.

Stern first came to Mount Saint Mary’s thanks to the encouragement of Bernadette Robert ’77, a family friend and Mount alum who is now the University’s associate vice president for diversity and inclusion.

“Angie is not only a dear personal friend, she’s cherished by the Mount community as a mentor, volunteer, business partner and generous supporter,” says Robert.

‘I’m excited to support the Wellness Pavilion, which will bring important new health and wellness initiatives to life.’

Angela Stern

Stern arrived on campus in 1978 to study business. She graduated in just three years, becoming the first person in her immediate family to receive a college degree. During Stern’s first semester on campus, a listing on the Chalon job board led to a part-time position and a pathway to a career in the healthcare industry. Today, she holds a principal position at Mercer Health and Benefits in downtown Los Angeles, where she’s worked for almost 20 years.

Throughout her career, Stern has remained an active part of the Mount community — as a Mount Associate, donor, mentor and volunteer. She is among the founding supporters of the Endowment for the Advancement of African Americans in Science and Technology Fund (EAAST), established in 1991. The endowment supports a Mount student each year in a STEM field of study.

In 2006, Stern joined the University’s Regents Council, a key volunteer group committed to serving as Mount ambassadors in the community. She also carries the Mount’s mission into other aspects of her life, including as a volunteer and board member with the Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services and as incoming president of Executive Women International.

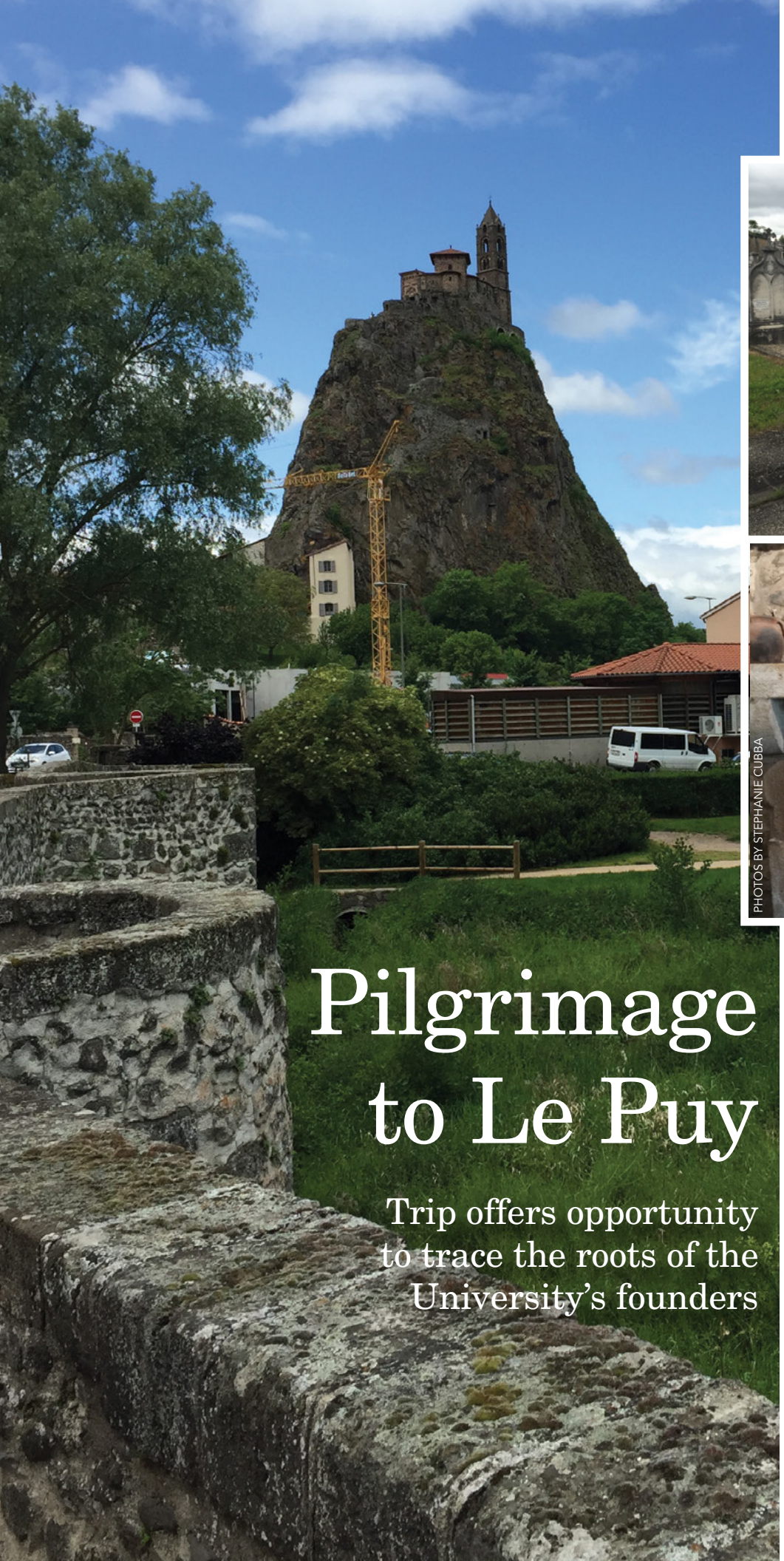
Stern’s most recent support has been dedicated to the Wellness Pavilion at Chalon, President Ann McElaney-Johnson’s top priority.

“I’m excited to support the Wellness Pavilion, which will bring important new health and wellness initiatives to life,” Stern says.

PHOTO BY TAMARA MURGA ’16

And five years ago, Stern reprised what is still her favorite role at the Mount: student. As a student in the Master of Business Administration graduate program, Stern traveled throughout China, forged lasting relationships, and enhanced her knowledge of national and international business. She also had the chance to celebrate her second graduation with a certain first-year undergraduate student: her daughter, Brittany.

This fall, Brittany begins her own senior year at the Mount. “This is where it all began for me,” Stern says, “and I could not be prouder of Brittany and her commitment to her own studies.”



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CUBBA

Pilgrimage to Le Puy

Trip offers opportunity to trace the roots of the University's founders

THIS SUMMER, a group of Mount Saint Mary's alums, faculty and staff followed in the footsteps of the University's founders in a pilgrimage to Le Puy, France.

The May 26 – June 5 journey, led by President Ann McElaney-Johnson and the Mount's CSJ Institute, highlighted the roots of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, including the majestic Saint Michel d'Aiguilhe in Le Puy-en-Velay *(left)*, the Lyon burial site of Mother St. John Fontbonne, CSJ, *(top)*, who re-founded the Sisters of St. Joseph after the French Revolution, and a tour of the Le Puy kitchen where the CSJs' first sisters met *(above)*.

Visit msmu.edu/magazine to view a photo slideshow and read an essay by CSJ Institute director Shannon Green.

Miles and moments

This year's Outstanding Alumnae Award recipients know the value of precious moments, whether they're spent on the road or in the classroom. One uses her skills to foster the future of education. The other protects the treasures of the past.

By Pia Orense '15

POWERFUL CONNECTIONS

EIGHTH-GRADE TEACHER Lovelyn Marquez-Prueher '03 stood in front of a classroom full of teenagers and allowed herself to be vulnerable. She read an essay she had written for the class about herself as a timid nine-year-old immigrant, who felt invisible in a crowd of loud, rowdy students.

Marquez-Prueher shared her story because she wanted the students to connect with her. She hoped that her example would inspire the teenagers to dig deep and write a more personal essay for their class on realistic fiction and investigative journalism.

"It was an issue I was carrying with me for so long, and the fact that I shared it gave them the freedom to do the same," she says.

Soon, students in the class felt emboldened to share the issues that troubled them: child abandonment, drugs, self harm and body image problems.

"One thing that my students understood from my class is that writing can be used to send a really powerful message that can change someone's life," she says.

Marquez-Prueher, who graduated from the Mount with a bachelor's degree in English, is the recipient of this year's Outstanding Alumnae Award for Professional Achievement. She is one of five educators in California who received the state's coveted Teacher of the Year award in 2015. She holds a master's in education from Cal State Los Angeles and is a national board certified teacher.

She teaches English at Dodson Middle School, a magnet school in an affluent neighborhood in Rancho Palos Verdes that attracts lower-income students from surrounding communities. Her students are English learners, some struggle with learning disabilities and a few have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

"My students are underdogs. For them, school doesn't come easy," Marquez-Prueher says.

Helping students navigate the language has become a lifelong passion for Marquez-Prueher. She tailors state-mandated curriculum to the needs of her students, and encourages fellow teachers to do the same.

Her role on campus is a hybrid one. Her full-time work is in the classroom, but she also manages the school's bilingual program. Aside from monitoring the progress of the English learners, she provides resources and support for other teachers who work with those students.

She is currently earning her preliminary administrative credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Her goal is to pay forward the mentoring she received during her early years as a teacher.

"It's important that we continue to dedicate a lot of time and support to teachers," she says. "Teachers get a lot of heat for things happening in the school setting. There's a lot of misplaced anger and blame put on teachers. I want to be the ray of sunshine for them."

Next page: Diane (Plou) Schautschick '65, Outstanding Alumnae Award for Service to the University

Lovelyn Marquez-Prueher '03 in her classroom at Dodson Middle School

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

Dianne (Plou) Schautschick '65 in the Doheny Campus library

PHOTO BY CARRIE ROSEMA

HOMECOMING 2016: OUTSTANDING ALUM AWARDS

MILES REWARDED

Twice a week, Dianne (Plou) Schautschick '65 travels 90 miles round trip, from Fountain Valley in south Orange County to the Chalon Campus in the Santa Monica Mountains. She does this willingly, excitedly even. Once she arrives on campus, she heads to the basement of the Charles Willard Coe Library, where the Archives live, and starts filing documents, memorabilia and photos.

"I heard Vicky McCargar, the University archivist, speak at a Regents Council Christmas event, and thought, 'I could do that.' And so I volunteered," she says.

At some point in the six years she's been helping in the library, she recruited two other volunteers, her friend Vivian Santibanez and fellow alum Emily (Deutsch) Keller '66, to make the commute with her. In the library, the triumvirate sort and file any paper, newsletter, flyers, notices, meeting minutes, anything that could be considered artifacts worthy of archiving.

At this year's Homecoming in October, the Mount will honor Schautschick with the Outstanding Alumnae Award for Service to the University. Aside from her volunteer work in the two campus libraries, she also serves as a regent.

Schautschick majored in social work at the Mount. Her first job straight out of college was with Catholic Charities in Houston, Texas, where she supervised the placement and care of babies in foster homes before they were matched with their adoptive families.

Schautschick left Catholic Charities after her first child was born. She earned her teaching credential in her mid-thirties and retired from the Magnolia School District in Anaheim 30 years later.

Now she keeps busy with her volunteer work. Wednesdays and Thursdays are reserved for the Mount libraries. Her latest project at the Mount is massive: Going through the thousands of books on the shelves of both campuses and making sure they're in the libraries' catalogs.

"It's not hard work," she says, even though she, Keller and Santibanez check about 800 books a day. "It's just time consuming."

On Fridays, she works in the bookstore of the Fountain Valley Library. She attends meetings as a Mount regent, as a member of the catechetical board of her parish and the consultative school board of the Diocese of Orange, and as trustee of Concordia University in Irvine.

"The best part of being retired is that I can volunteer any where and any time I want," she says. "Plus my friends and I go out to lunch all the time — because we can!"

PHOTO BY WATCHARA PHOMICINDA

{UNSTOPPABLE}

Mother and son hit the 'restart' button together

By Tamara Murga '16

WHEN DEBBIE GOFFA '12, '16 MA WALKED ACROSS THE STAGE of the Shrine Auditorium during this year's Commencement, she heard a loud yell from the audience, "That's my mom!" The cheer came from her son, Luke Berger, who sat with the Class of 2016 as a Weekend/Evening College (WEC) graduate.

Goffa and Berger were a rare pair that day. The mother and son duo received their degrees at the same time — Goffa with a master's in humanities and Berger with a bachelor's in applied psychology.

Goffa, who is also a WEC alum, recalls the moment that started it all. To celebrate her baccalaureate success four years ago, she invited her family to join her at the WEC Awards Dinner. There, Berger had the chance to visit with some of his mother's professors and learn for himself the advantages of a non-traditional undergraduate program.

"They talked to him and he started to think that maybe this could be a good place for him," Goffa says. Eventually, Berger enrolled in the University's WEC as an applied psychology major.

The decision improved more than his educational path. Mother and son enjoyed a "restart" in their relationship when they began carpooling to the Doheny Campus and studying together at the library.

"I've seen that if she can do it, so can I, and now we're closer than we've ever been," says Berger. "I'm very proud that we graduated on the same day."

Goffa and Berger owe their success to the lessons learned at the Mount.

"It teaches you to be resilient and you feel so complete in terms of your humanity when you walk out of here," says Goffa, a former editor at the Los Angeles Times and now a senior writer for the University of Southern California.

Berger agrees: "Our experience helped us build a sense of 'Yes, we can do anything we take on.'"

CLASS NOTES

1951 **Geraldine (Biggs) McGrath** was recently awarded the Life Achievement in Sacred Music Award by the National Association of Church Musicians. She is the first woman to receive this award. McGrath is the founder and former director of the St. John Baptist de la Salle adult choir and music ministry in Granada Hills, Calif.

1956 **Joan (Carey) Garvin** had her article on Rev. Gary Thomas, an exorcist, published on May 25 in the Los Altos Town Crier.

1970 **Susan Von Tobel** is happy to share that she and her daughter have moved back to Las Vegas where her daughter will be attending UNLV. Von Tobel will be doing some counseling and spiritual direction through Stillpoint, a center for spiritual development.

1972 **Joanne D'Amico** runs several businesses, including Keller Williams Palos Verdes Realty. She recently did a grand tour of South America, which included a stop to see Machu Picchu in Peru, and traveled to Alaska on a Disney cruise with her grandchildren. She also toured Sicily, Croatia and Greece. She recently visited with her Carondelet roommate, Shelley Pighin '72, in Northern California.

1976 **Aganaze (Mary Agnes) Jones** released her world-consciousness music video, "Queen of the World" shortly before her mother Pauline passed away in November 2015. She worked with Emmy-nominated videographer, Stephon Litwinczuk; former Motown singer Deena Efferson; Florence Riggs, vocal coach to well-known singers; and others to bring a positive message to the world. Jones' previous CD releases include: "Pupperville and Songs from the Animals Speak" and "Mass in Honor of St. Agnes." She is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

1977 **Beth (Hill) Kin**, one of the founders of Cancer Support Community Valley/Ventura/Santa Barbara (CSCVVSB) was honored in May

with the Celebration of Excellence Award by the organization at its "Leave It to Laughter" Celebration of Life Gala. The event celebrated 25 years of providing support, education and hope to people fighting cancer.

1978 **Patricia M. Cuadros '83 MS** (Education) was recognized by "Continental Who's Who Among Pinnacle Professionals" and was also recently named VIP Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women. Cuadros is the director of operations at an information technology firm that works on data security, network and server assistance, data backup and more.

1980 **Yi-li (Chin) Ward** had an exhibit of her large-scale flower paintings and abstracted human figures in May at the dA Center for the Arts in Pomona, Calif.

1984 **Suzanne (Weber) Hoffman**, Alumnae Association president, celebrated a very significant event in May at the Mount's Commencement, when her daughter, Maureen Hoffman '16, graduated with her nursing degree. It was truly a pride-filled family celebration with Margaret (Weber) Susank '66, Barbara (Weber) Smith '72, and Joan (Weber) Galvin '82 all in attendance to see their niece graduate and become an alum!

SAIL THE DANUBE

A cruise down the Danube River, through elegant Eastern European cities and Old World villages, promises to be a romantic and memorable journey. The Grand Danube Passage, from May 16–30, 2017, will take travelers on a land and river journey that will visit eight countries and four sites designated as UNESCO World Heritage landmarks: the banks of the Danube in Budapest, Hungary; the historic center of Vienna; the Wachau cultural landscape in Austria; and the historic center of Prague. Other itinerary highlights include a walking tour of the Slovak National Theater and St. Michael's Gate in Bratislava, Slovakia; an in-depth look at life in the former Yugoslavian state of Serbia; and an exploration of the Iron Gate Gorge in Romania.

The Grand Danube Passage begins at $4,945. For more information, contact Jeanne Ruiz '63, director of alumnae relations and engagement, at 213.477.2512 or at jaruiz@msmu.edu.

MARRIAGES

The Alumnae Association extends congratulations to the following alums on their recent weddings:

'06 Marisa Smith to Dr. Trevor Walker

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Congratulations to the following alums and their spouses on their new additions:

'03 Nicholas Vincent to Elizabeth (Robles) Jimenez, 2nd child

'10 Reynaldo Nehemiah III to Leilani (Ford) Chavez, MA, 1st child

'15 Julian Francis to Pia Abelgas Orense, 2nd child

IN MEMORIAM

Prayers for the family and friends of:

'40 Ishbel MacIntosh Murray
'46 Marion Hills Farrell
'48 Roberta Johnson Bothwell
'53 Barbara Breen
'53 Catherine Scully Brenneis
'54 Celeste Gourdeau French
'55 Roberta Boken Fisher
'55 Joan Heuer Patterson
'56 sister of Peggy Coates Amante
'56 Anne "Sandy" Stevenson
'57 Bruna Bernasconi Tribble, mother of Nerina Tribble Vallecillo '89
'57 Claire Kauth Johnson
'58 Carol Crawford Weidenkopf
'59 husband of Joan Becker Nicholson
'66 Marilyn Kollida Coffelt
'66 mother-in-law of Margaret Weber Susank
'67 mother of Kathleen Donovan Jensen
'69 husband of Kathleen Conner Larsen
'69 father-in-law of Grace Kadner Wickersham
'73 mother of Mary Ann Young Mailloux
'75 mother of Michelle Melanson
'76 mother of Aganaze (Mary Agnes) Jones
'81 father of Julie Taguchi
'85 father of Jeanine Juge Billingham
'86 Sr. Judith Fogassy, SDSH
'88 Julia Veronica Gonzalez
'91 Yasmin Sheikh Alam
'06 Eleanor Rowe Banares
'08 Robert Paulson

They will be remembered in the Masses, prayers and good works of the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Mount community.

Students perform experiments in the organic chemistry lab in Brady Hall in the late 1930s.

Student Pearl Koh operates a gas chromatograph, which is used to separate chemical substances, in 1965.

A mindset for innovation

FOR THE FIRST DECADE OR SO OF ITS EXISTENCE, the whole Mount community crowded into just a single building — Brady Hall. But academic research would never be sacrificed for lack of space, so the founding CSJs somehow squeezed in a well-equipped science lab and a library that allowed Mount women to do rigorous research. And it paid off. The Mount received special support from the War Department during World War II because of the caliber of its science graduates, and in 1950 the college opened the first academic research department in the world dedicated to the study of cancer.

Whether it was a state-of-the-art home economics lab or a giant satellite dish, technology has been embraced with enthusiasm. But more than hardware, the Mount has long fostered a mindset for innovation.

In developing her Adaptation Method in the 1960s, Sister Callista Roy, CSJ, '63 ventured beyond the boundaries of traditional nursing research. In the 1980s, Mount faculty developed new pedagogies that embraced diversity and set the pace of change across the country. A commitment to innovation, the introduction of appropriate technologies and a close eye on emerging research opportunities continue to prepare Mount students for global challenges.

— Victoria McCargar, University archivist

Mount Saint Mary's University
LOS ANGELES

10 Chester Place
Los Angeles, CA 90007

msmu.edu

MountSaintMarysU
@MSMU_LA
@MSMU_LA
Mount Saint Mary's University

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LOS ANGELES, CA
PERMIT NO. 22801

LATINO WRITERS CONFERENCE

ON OCT. 1-2, MOUNT SAINT MARY'S will welcome accomplished and aspiring writers to the University's Doheny Campus for its Latino and Latin American Writers Conference. The event will feature renowned writers such as Mexican poet Rocío Cerón, Southern California authors Wendy Ortiz and Daniel Olivas, and the Mount's own Fletcher Jones Endowed Chair of Writing, Marcos McPeek Villatoro.

The eclectic gathering is presented by the Mount's MFA in Creative Writing program, which also debuts a bilingual track of study this fall. Conference highlights will include workshops in poetry and fiction, panels with current and emerging writers, and author readings. Screenwriting talks and film screenings are also part of the mix, thanks to the partnership of the Mount's MFA in Film and Television program.

To learn more and to register, visit msmu.edu/LWC2016.

Upcoming

Sept. 17
Women's Leadership Conference, Chalon Campus
msmu.edu/wlc

Oct. 1-2
Latino and Latin American Writers Conference, Doheny Campus, msmu.edu/lwc2016

Oct. 15
Homecoming, Chalon Campus
alums.msmu.edu/homecoming2016

Oct. 18
Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media's Global Symposium, seejane.org

Oct. 25
14th Annual Pat Reif Memorial Lecture, with speaker Ivy Nallammah Josiah, Doheny Campus, lgarry@msmu.edu

Nov. 30
Master of Science in Nursing Symposium, Doheny Campus, msato@msmu.edu

Dec. 4
Christmas Magic at the Mansion, Doheny Campus
slee@msmu.edu

Feb. 22
President's Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon, Chalon Campus, hschraeder@msmu.edu

March 23
Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™, Skirball Cultural Center, msmu.edu/statusofwomen